



CLAN FORBES SOCIETY

House of Forbes in the Thirty Years War: Complete Military Roster

Forbes of Forbes

Alexander Forbes was born in 1601 as the eldest surviving son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes, and his wife Jean, daughter of Lord Alexander Elphinstone. He became the 10th Lord Forbes upon his father's death in 1641. In 1626, he and his father, Lord Forbes, assisted Donald Mackay, 1st Lord Reay, in recruiting 2,000 Scotsmen to join Christian IV of Denmark, brother of Anne of Denmark, who was the wife of James I and VI. In 1630, Alexander himself took service as Colonel under General Gustavus Adolphus (also known as Gustav II Adolf), King of Sweden, and commanded two regiments of Scots numbering 2,600 men. In 1632, Alexander fought at the decisive Protestant victory of the Battle of Lützen where Gustavus Adolphus himself was killed. However, Alexander was taken prisoner by Albrecht Wenzel Eusebius von Wallenstein, commander for the Holy Roman Empire, and remained imprisoned for 21 months. He was released after the battle of Hessisch-Oldendorf in 8 July 1633 when he was exchanged for the Imperial colonel Bernhard Hackfort, Baron of Westerholt zu Lembeck. In the summer of 1634, Alexander returned briefly to Britain with a Swedish envoy and again in 1635 where he entered Stuart diplomatic service. In 1636, he travelled to Denmark and Sweden to establish trading relationships. His brought his family with him and his wife Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter Lucia while in Bremen in 1636. Forbes returned to Scotland by 1638 and was decommissioned in 1645.

John Forbes of Putachie was born in 1608 as the second surviving son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes, and his wife Jean, daughter of Lord Alexander Elphinstone. John joined the Swedish army in 1626 as a Captain in the Scots Brigade under the command of Colonel William Gunn. Forbes was badly wounded in the Battle of Nordlingen in 1634, when the Protestant troops under Field Marshal Count Gustav Horn af Björneborg were defeated by the Roman Catholic Imperial army, led by Crown Prince Ferdinand, later Holy Roman Emperor and King of Germany. In December 1635, Charles I recommended now Colonel Forbes for service with the Emperor of Persia, noting that he had seen service in the late European wars. In 1636, he served in the Army of Westphalia under Major General Alexander Leslie, later Earl of Leven, who was victorious at the Battle of Wittstock.

William Forbes of Fiddes was born in 1614 as the third surviving son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes, and his wife Jean, daughter of Lord Alexander Elphinstone. In 1634, his brother Alexander, Master of Forbes, requested that he join his efforts in Germany. William arrived in Stade and joined his brother Alexander in Osnabruck, where Colonel Mattias (Matthew) Forbes was the Military Governor of the garrison. Both Mattias and his brother General Arvid Forbes were distant cousins. Their father, Ernald Forbes, was the great-grandson of Duncan Forbes of Corsindae, second son of James, 2nd Lord Forbes.

In 1635, William joined John Skytte's Infantry Regiment as an ensign and later that year joined George Leslie's regiment. He took part in the conquest of Nienburg and joined Alexander Leslie, later 1st Earl of Leven, in raising the siege of Osnabruck; taking of Petershagen, Minden and Herford; raising of the siege of Hanau; and conquering Amoenburg. He fought at the Battle of Wittstock in 1636 under the joint command of Johan Banér and Alexander Leslie. They defeated the Imperial-Saxon army, led by Count Melchior von Hatzfeld and the Saxon Elector John George I. In 1637, William's regiment defended Castle of Wolgast, which had been captured earlier that year by Imperial troops.

Promoted to Lieutenant in 1639, he was engaged in many conflicts under Field-Marshal Herman Wrangel. These included the conquests of Gartz a. d. Oder, Horneburg, Lauenburg, Schladen, Mansfeld, Pirna, and the battles at Chemnitz, Melnik, and Brandeis/Elbe in Bohemia. In 1640, William engaged in

the siege of Regensburg in Upper Palatinate and, in 1641, he fought in the successful battle at Wolfenbüttel against the Imperial troops of Arch-duke Leopold Wilhelm and Ottavio Piccolomini. Under Major-General Caspar Cornelius Mortaigne in 1642, he fought in Silesia in battle near Schweidnitz against Franz Albrecht of Sachsen-Lauenburg. He was promoted in 1643 to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and fought in the kingdom of Bohemia and then against the Danes. In late 1644 and early 1645, he saw action in Saxonia and Bohemia.

In 1645, William was taken prisoner at the Battle of Jankau but was freed by his troops that same day. He went on to lay siege to Iglau in Bohemia and Kremsin Lower Austria, where he became Commander. He was wounded at Brünn and recovered in Nikolsburg in Bohemia. He returned to duty to take part in the conquest of Höxter, Paderborn, Obermarsberg and Amoneburg. In 1647, aided the conquest of Bregenz, Feldkirch and Heiligenberg. After the 1647 Truce of Ulm between Maximilian I and Sweden, he joined the army of Hessen-Kassel and was made colonel of Mortaigne's regiment. Forbes continued to serve the Swedish army and died in 1654 when forces of the City of Bremen attacked his fortification. He left a "Memoriale" of his military expeditions in the Holy Roman Empire which is now stored at the Library of the University of Lund.

Arthur Forbes was born at Dunbeath in 1615 as the fourth surviving son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes, and his wife Jean, daughter of Lord Alexander Elphinstone. In 1635, Arthur enlisted as a Captain in Johan Skytte's regiment with his brother James. He died the next year on campaign in Germany.

James Forbes was born in 1617 as the youngest son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes, and his wife Jean, daughter of Lord Alexander Elphinstone. In 1635, Arthur enlisted as a Captain in Johan Skytte's regiment with his brother Arthur. No record of his military service exists except that he died in 1654 as a Lieutenant-Colonel. He inherited several estates in Sweden from his brother William, which in 1690 were valued at 12,000 rixdaler and generated 750 rixdaler per annum.

John Forbes was the illegitimate ("natural") son of Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes. He enlisted as an ensign in Colonel James Spens' regiment in 1624. In 1629, he served as Captain in John Meldrom's Scottish Regiment and, in 1631, he served under Major General Alexander Leslie in the regiment commanded by James Hamilton, 1st Duke of Hamilton. He fought at the 1632 Battle of Lützen, which was a Protestant victory despite the death of Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus. John then served as a Major in Colonel Christopher Potley's infantry-regiment under Swedish Field Marshal Johan Banér. He was killed in action in 1635 and was most likely buried in Minden.

Forbes of Corse and Granard

Sir Arthur Forbes of Granard was the fourth son of William Forbes, 4th Laird of Corse, and a brother of William "Danzig Willie" Forbes of Craigievar and Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen. In 1626, Forbes served as a Lieutenant Colonel of Mackay's regiment in the Danish-Norwegian army. In 1628, he was created baronet of Castle Forbes in County Longford, Ireland. He entered service to Sweden in 1630 in the regiment of Alexander, Master of Forbes. Forbes was killed soon after in a duel in Holstein near Hamburg in 1632.

John Forbes was born about 1600 to Reverend John Forbes (1568 – 1634), minister in Alford and then Delft, who was the son of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen and grandson of William Forbes, 4th Laird of Corse. The younger John Forbes first served from 1619 to 1625 in the Scots Brigade of the Dutch Republic. In 1626, he joined Mackay's Regiment in Denmark-Norway as a Captain, along with his uncle Sir Arthur Forbes of Granard. He was promoted to Major in 1628. In 1629, he was promoted to Colonel of a regiment of German soldiers in the Swedish army. He was taken prisoner in 1633 and was held for three years at Lindau in Bavaria. In the 1640's, he served in the Båhus regiment and then the Dal regiment in the 1650-1660's. He was later killed in France.

Forbes of Thainstone

James Forbes (1580-1656) was the eldest son of Henry Forbes of Thainstone and Margareta Forbes eldest daughter of William Forbes of Corse and Susanna Stauchan. Henry Forbes of Thainstone was the great-great-great grandson of Sir John Forbes, 2nd Lord of Tolquhon. James (also known as Jacob) arrived in Sweden in about 1600 with his father and brother Patrick (also known as Peter.) His father Henry served in the Swedish army under king Karl IX and was killed in September 1605 at the battle of Kirkholm in Livonia. James remained in Sweden after his father's death and became a merchant for both the dowager queen Kristina and her son King Gustav II Adolf. By 1624 James had become a Swedish citizen and a burgess of Stockholm. In 1626 at the age of 46, James enlisted as a private in the Narkes and Varmlands regiment. He was promoted to Lieutenant the next year. In 1628, he was promoted at Captain for a company of Varmlanders before transferring to the Södermanlands regiment. He was promoted to Colonel and applied for Swedish ennoblement for himself and his brother Patrick in 1629. This effort resulted in his ennoblement under the title of Forbes of Lund. In 1647, he served as a Colonel for a Scottish regiment in Swedish service. He died in 1656 and was buried in the Funbo church in Lund in a tomb decorated with his Swedish coat of arms.

Patrick Forbes was the son of Henry Forbes of Thainstone and the brother of James Forbes. His father was the great-great-great grandson of Sir John Forbes, 2nd Lord of Tolquhon. Patrick (also known as Peter) arrived in Sweden in about 1600 with his father and brother James (also known as Jacob.) His father Henry served in the Swedish army under king Karl IX and was killed in September 1605 at the battle of Kirkholm in Livonia. In Prussia, he married Sofia von Langvin and had a son, Colonel Johan Forbes (also spelled Forbus.) By 1631, he oversaw provisions to the Swedish army in occupied Prussia. In 1633, Peter Forbes became a factor at the armoury (Klädkammaren) and in 1634 he became accountant for the Swedish forces in Germany. Patrick became a naturalized citizen of Sweden in 1651 and entered into the House of Nobility in 1652. He died in 1658.

Forbes of Towie

Arthur Forbes of Towie, senior, was the son of John Forbes, 4th of Towie and his third wife Elizabeth Forbes of Rires. Arthur was the younger step-brother of Alexander and John Forbes, both of whose mother was John's second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Campbell of Cawdor. This was the same Margaret Campbell Forbes that was murdered by Adam Gordon in Corgarff Castle in 1571. In 1626, Alexander, Master of Forbes, assigned Arthur as Lieutenant Colonel to command his 800 Forbes recruits within Colonel Donald Mackay's Regiment. He was killed in action that same year, along with his son Arthur Forbes, the younger, who was also in the regiment.

Arthur Forbes of Towie, the younger, was the son of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Forbes and grandson of John Forbes, 4th of Towie. As Captain, he joined the Danish-Norwegian service in Colonel Donald Mackay's Regiment with his father in 1626. He died of wounds received in action at Oldenburg in September 1627.

Forbes of Tulloch (Tolquhon)

John Forbes of Tulloch was likely the grandson of John Forbes of Tulloch, an illegitimate ("natural" or "base") son of Duncan Forbes of Argeighton, second son of Sir John Forbes, 1st Lord of Tolquhon. John first served in Colonel Donald Mackay's Regiment in Denmark in 1627. He was wounded in action at Oldenburg that same year. In 1629, he transferred to Sweden with Mackay's Regiment. In 1632, he served as Captain of cavalry with his company in Schmalkalden. John transferred to the Scots Brigade as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was killed in action at the 1634 Battle of Nordlingen, in which the

Roman Catholic Imperial army defeated the combined Protestant armies of Sweden and their German-Protestant allies of the Heilbronn Alliance.

Other Clansmen

Alexander Forbes was a Lieutenant in John Meldrum's Regiment of Swedish service from 1629 to 1630.

Alexander Forbes was a Captain in Colonel James Duwall's Regiment in Swedish service from 1629 to 1630.

Alexander Forbes (also known as Forbus) was an Ensign in Alexander Leslie's Regiment in Swedish service from 1630 to 1631.

Alexander Forbes, "the Bald," (also known as Forbus) served first as a Reformed Captain in Alexander Leslie's Regiment from 1630 to 1631. As a Major, he joined Arvid Forbus' Regiment in 1632 and was promoted first to Lieutenant Colonel and then Colonel. He commanded a mixed Irish and Scottish Regiment. He died in 1636 and was buried in Eisenach.

Duncan Forbes served as a Captain in Mackay's Regiment in Danish service in 1627. He was killed in action in 1629 at the castle of Breitenburg against Imperial-Ligistic troops.

George Forbes was an ensign in Robert Cunningham's Regiment in Swedish service from 1633 to 1635.

Gilbert Forbes was a Reformed Lieutenant in Alexander Hamilton's Regiment in 1630 and then John Hamilton's Regiment, both in Swedish service, from 1630 to 1631.

James Forbes entered Swedish service in 1629 as an Ensign in John Meldrum's Regiment from. He was mustered out in 1635 as a Captain. He went on to serve as a lieutenant-colonel in the Covenanting army in 1649.

John Forbes was a Lieutenant under Captain Patrick Stuart in the Scots Brigade in 1638, in service to the Dutch Republic. He was captured by the Spanish at Callo in 1638.

John Forbes (also known as Johan) was a Lieutenant in the Skane Regiments in Danish-Norwegian service in 1645.

William Forbes served as a Military Chaplain in both Danish and Swedish service between. He was first in Colonel Donald Mackay's Regiment in 1628 which later entered Swedish service. Forbes was subsequently in George Crawford's Regiment under Swedish service in 1630.

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